

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims. Only those claims being amended herein show their changes in highlighted form, where insertions appear as underlined text (e.g., insertions), while deletions appear as strikethrough text (e.g., ~~deletions~~) or enclosed in double brackets (e.g., ~~[[deletion]]~~).

1. (Currently Amended) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound, comprising:

a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure between the cover and the wound; and

an absorbable matrix adapted to encourage growth of the tissue in the area of the wound into the matrix, said absorbable matrix being located between the wound and the cover;

wherein the absorbable matrix comprises a first absorbable portion formed from a first material having a first rate of absorption of ~~[[the]]~~ tissue into the first absorbable portion and a second absorbable portion formed from a second material having a second rate of absorption of ~~[[the]]~~ tissue into the second absorbable portion, the first rate of absorption being different than the second rate of absorption.

2. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the first rate of absorption is greater than the second rate of absorption, and the absorbable matrix is positioned in the wound such that the first absorbable portion is generally adjacent to the deepest portion of the wound and the second absorbable portion is generally closer to the cover than the first absorbable portion.

3. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the appliance further comprises an adhesive material on at least a portion of the cover, the adhesive material being adapted to at least secure a portion the cover to the tissue surrounding the wound.

4. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the cover comprises a temperature-sensitive material configured such that a user or practitioner can monitor the temperature at the site of the wound by monitoring the appearance of the cover.

5. (Currently Amended) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound, comprising:

a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

an absorbable matrix adapted to encourage growth of the tissue in the area of the wound into the matrix, said absorbable matrix being located between the wound and the cover; and

a segment of tubing embedded within the absorbable matrix;

wherein:

the absorbable matrix comprises a plurality of layers with at least a lower layer and a higher layer[.,.];

the lower layer is formed from a first material having a first higher rate of absorption of tissue into the first material ~~than a rate of absorption of the higher layer;~~

the higher layer is formed from a second material having a second rate of absorption of tissue into the second material; and

the first rate of absorption is higher than the second rate of absorption.

6. (Currently Amended) An appliance for monitoring pressure during treatment of any body part of a patient, comprising a cover adapted to cover and enclose the body part being treated and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the body part being treated, wherein the cover comprises a plurality of protrusions supported by the cover configured to ~~means for monitor[ing]]~~ the level of the pressure at the site of the body part being treated.

7. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the appliance further comprises an adhesive material on at least a portion of the cover, the adhesive material being adapted to at least secure a portion the cover to the tissue surrounding the wound.

8. (Currently amended) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the ~~means for monitoring the level of the pressure at the site of the body part being treated~~ comprises a plurality of protrusions are supported by the cover, the protrusions being configured to displace inwardly as the reduced pressure between the cover and the wound increases such that the amount of

inward_displacement of the protrusions increases as the reduced pressure between the cover and the wound increases.

9. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the ~~means for monitoring the level of the pressure at the site of the body part being treated~~ comprises a plurality of protrusions supported by the cover ~~are within the cover, the protrusions being~~ configured to displace inwardly in an increasing amount ~~away from the remaining surface of the cover~~ as the level of reduced pressure between the cover and the wound increases.

10. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 6 [[8]], wherein the protrusions are in the shape of hills or bumps.

11. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 6 [[8]], wherein the protrusions are in the shape of a bellows.

12. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 6 [[8]], wherein the protrusions have a color different from the color of the remaining surface of the cover, or a different shade of the same color as the shade of the color on the remaining surface of the cover, and wherein the color or the shade of the color of the protrusions changes as the protrusions are displaced away from the remaining surface of the cover.

13. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 6 [[8]], further comprising sound means, wherein the sound means produce an audible sound as the protrusions are displaced away from the remaining surface of the cover.

14. (Previously Presented) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound, comprising:

a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure between the cover and the wound; and

a pressure monitor supported by the cover;

wherein the pressure monitor is configured to provide a visual indication of the level of reduced pressure between the cover and the wound such that a visual inspection of the appearance of the pressure monitor provides an indication of the level of reduced pressure between the cover and the wound.

15. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the appliance further comprises an adhesive material on at least a portion of the cover, the adhesive material being adapted to at least secure a portion the cover to the tissue surrounding the wound.

16. (Original) The appliance of Claim 14, further comprising a packing material adapted to prevent overgrowth of wound tissue, the packing material being located between the wound and the cover.

17. (Original) The appliance of Claim 14, further comprising an absorbable matrix adapted to encourage growth of tissue in the area of the wound into the matrix, the matrix being located between the wound and the cover.

18. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the pressure monitor comprises one or more protrusions supported by the cover, each protrusion being configured to move between at least an expanded state and a compressed state, wherein each protrusion is configured to move toward the compressed state as the level of reduced pressure between the cover and the cover increases.

19. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the pressure monitor comprises one or more protrusions supported by the cover, each protrusion being configured to displace in an increasing amount toward the wound as the level of reduced pressure between the cover and the wound increases.

20. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 19, wherein each protrusion is in the shape of a hill or bump.

21. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 19, wherein each protrusion is in the shape of a bellows.

22. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 19, wherein each protrusion has a color different from the color of the remaining surface of the cover, or a different shade of the same color as the shade of the color on the remaining surface of the cover, and wherein the color or the shade of the color changes as the protrusion is displaced away from the remaining surface of the cover.

23. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 19, further comprising sound means, wherein the sound means produces an audible sound as the protrusion is displaced away from the remaining surface of the cover.

24. (Currently Amended) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound, comprising:

a cover having a periphery adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound; and

a temperature monitor supported by the cover and positioned within the periphery of the cover; wherein

the temperature monitor is configured to provide a visual indication of the temperature of the wound such that a visual inspection of the appearance of the temperature monitor provides an indication of the temperature of the wound.

25. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 24, wherein the appliance further comprises an adhesive material on at least a portion of the cover, the adhesive material being adapted to at least secure a portion the cover to the tissue surrounding the wound.

26. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 24, wherein the temperature monitor comprises one or more layers of temperature-sensitive material located between the cover and the wound.

27. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 26, wherein one of the one or more layers of temperature-sensitive material is configured to change from one color to another color or from one shade to another shade of the same color as the temperature of the wound changes.

28. (Original) The appliance of Claim 27, wherein the temperature-sensitive material is attached to a surface of the cover so that the cover and the temperature-sensitive material comprise a single integrated unit.

29. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 24, further comprising one or more temperature measuring devices located above the cover, between the cover and the site of the wound, or within the cover.

30. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 29, further comprising an alarm system comprising:

a data processor operably attached to the one or more temperature measuring devices; and

an alarm device that is operably connected to the data processor, wherein the alarm device provides an alarm signal when the temperature measured by any temperature sensing device exceeds or is lower than a predetermined value.

31. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 30, further comprising a temperature display and recording device that is operably connected to the data processor.

32. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) An apparatus for treating a wound comprising:
a vacuum system adapted to produce a reduced pressure;
a collection system that is operably connected to the vacuum system, and
a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with the collection system adapted to apply the reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance comprising:

a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

reduced pressure supply means for connection with the vacuum system adapted to supply the reduced pressure within the cover to the wound; and
an absorbable matrix to prevent overgrowth of wound tissue;

wherein the absorbable matrix is located between the wound and the cover and comprises a first absorbable portion formed from a first material having a first rate of absorption of [[the]] tissue into the first absorbable portion and a second absorbable portion formed from a second material having a second rate of absorption of [[the]] tissue into the second absorbable portion, the first rate of absorption being different than the second rate of absorption.

33. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.

34. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the reduced pressure supply means comprises a length of tubing, and further comprising a flotation valve within the container for blocking the tubing when a predetermined amount of fluid is collected within the container.

35. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) An apparatus for treating a wound comprising:
a vacuum system adapted to produce a reduced pressure;
a collection system that is operably connected to the vacuum system; and

a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with the vacuum system adapted to apply the reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance comprising:

a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound, wherein the cover comprises ~~means for~~ a plurality of protrusions supported by the cover for monitoring the level of the pressure at the wound; and

reduced pressure supply means for connection with the vacuum system adapted to supply the reduced pressure within the cover to the wound.

36. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.

37. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the reduced pressure supply means comprises a length of tubing, and further comprising a flotation valve within the container for blocking the tubing when a predetermined amount of fluid is collected within the container.

38. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for treating a wound comprising:

a vacuum system adapted to produce a reduced pressure;

a collection system that is operably connected to the vacuum system; and

a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with the vacuum system adapted to apply the reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance comprising:

a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

reduced pressure supply means for connection with the vacuum system adapted to supply the reduced pressure within the cover to the wound; and

a temperature monitor supported by the cover;

wherein the temperature monitor is configured to provide a visual indication of the temperature of the wound such that a visual inspection of the appearance of the temperature monitor provides an indication of the temperature of the wound.

39. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.

40. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the reduced pressure supply means comprises a length of tubing, and further comprising a flotation valve within the container for blocking the tubing when a predetermined amount of fluid is collected within the container.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound, comprising:

a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

a port for supplying reduced pressure within said cover;

a first absorbable matrix located between the cover and the wound and adapted to encourage growth of the tissue adjacent to the first absorbable matrix into the first absorbable matrix; and

a second absorbable matrix located between the cover and the wound and adapted to encourage growth of the tissue adjacent to the second absorbable matrix into the second absorbable matrix; wherein

the first absorbable matrix is formed from a first material having [[has]] a first rate of absorption of [[the]] tissue into the first absorbable matrix and the second absorbable matrix is formed from a second material having [[has]] a second rate of absorption of the tissue into the second absorbable matrix; and

the first rate of absorption is different than the second rate of absorption.

54. (Previously presented) The appliance of Claim 53, further comprising a pressure monitor.

55. (Previously presented) The appliance of Claim 53, further comprising a temperature monitor.

56. (Previously presented) The appliance of Claim 53, further comprising a source of suction.

57. (Previously presented) The appliance of Claim 1, further comprising a conduit configured to communicate with a source of reduced pressure and the cover so as to transfer the reduced pressure supplied by the source of reduced pressure to the cover.

58. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, further comprising a third absorbable portion formed from a third material having a third rate of absorption of [[the]] tissue into the third absorbable portion, the third rate of absorption being different than the first rate of absorption and the second rate of absorption.

59. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the first absorbable portion substantially surrounds the second absorbable portion.

60. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the cover comprises a material that is configured to change appearance when the temperature at the site of the wound changes, wherein such material is supported by the cover.

61. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the pressure monitor and the cover are formed so that the pressure monitor is integral with the cover.

62. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 14, further comprising a conduit comprising a first portion configured to communicate with a source of reduced pressure and comprising a second portion configured to communicate with the cover so that the conduit can transfer the reduced pressure supplied by the source of reduced pressure to the cover.

63. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 24, further comprising a conduit comprising a first portion configured to communicate with a source of reduced pressure and comprising a second portion configured to communicate with the cover so that the conduit can transfer the reduced pressure supplied by the source of reduced pressure to the cover.

Application No.: 10/652,100
Filing Date: August 28, 2003

64. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 24, wherein the temperature monitor and the cover are formed so that the temperature monitor is integral with the cover.

65. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 53, wherein the second absorbable matrix is closer to the cover and has a lower rate of absorption than that of the first absorbable matrix.

66. (New) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein each of the plurality of protrusions has a closed end portion.

67. (New) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the cover defines a periphery and the pressure monitor is positioned within the periphery of the cover.

68. (New) The appliance of Claim 24, wherein the temperature monitor and the cover are formed so that the temperature monitor is positioned inside the cover.